

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /098 W
-----011503 140602Z /10

R 132228Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8782
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USCINCSO
AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 0265

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, UK, BH, GT
SUBJ: BELIZE

1. BEGIN UNCLAS SUMMARY. FOR FIRST TIME GOG HAS
PUBLICLY RECORDED INTENT TO SETTLE BELIZE DISPUTE BEFORE
PRESIDENT LAUGERUD LEAVES OFFICE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN INTERVIEW CARRIED BY EL IMPARCIAL JANUARY 12, FONMIN
MOLINA WAS QUOTED AS SAYING IT IS "PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S
INTENTION THAT A SOLUTION (TO THE BELIZE DISPUTE) BE
REACHED DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION," THAT IS, BY THE TIME HE
TURNS OVER REINS OF GOVERNMENT TO SUCCESSOR ON JULY 1,
1978. MOLINA SAID GOG SEEKS "INTENSIFICATION" OF NEGOTIATIONS.
HE CONTEMPLATED POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF UK-GOG
TALKS WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS.

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2. REMARKS CAME DURING PRESS QUESTIONING ABOUT
WASHINGTON DATELINE DPA STORY APPEARING HERE JANUARY
12 WHICH, IN REPORTING ROWLANDS-VANCE MEETING,
CITED "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" TO EFFECT THAT UK AND
GOG HAD REACHED PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT WHEREBY
GUATEMALA WOULD RECEIVE SOME BELIZEAN TERRITORY IN
EXCHANGE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE.

MONINA DENIED ANY AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED AND MAINTAINED THAT WHILE NUMEROUS FORMULAS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, TO DATE UK AND GUATEMALA HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ACCEPT EACH OTHER'S PROPOSALS. HE NOTED THAT ANY AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO HAVE APPROVAL OF THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE "THROUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVE ORGANS." BY THIS HE PRESUMABLY MEANT COUNCIL OF STATE AND CONGRESS.
END UNCLASSIFIED

3. COMMENT: THIS EXCHANGE AND PREVIOUS WIRE STORIES SUGGESTING A TERRITORIAL TRANSACTION MAY BE IN THE CARDS, HAVE HAD RELATIVELY LITTLE REACTION IN LOCAL PRESS. SUCH STORIES, WHEN THEY APPEAR, TEND TO BE RELEGATED TO INSIDE PAGES, SUGGESTING GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PRESS NOT TO PLAY THEM UP. EXCEPTION TO THIS GENERALIZATION IN RECENT DAYS WAS EL GRAFICO'S JANUARY 13 EDITORIAL WHICH REVIEWED IMPARCIAL INTERVIEW, COMMENTED ERRONEOUSLY THAT FONMIN MOLINA HAS ALWAYS TAKEN POSITION THAT GOG COULD NOT SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS THAN ALL BELIZEAN TERRITORY, AND CONCLUDED THAT MOLINA'S STATEMENT AUGURS WELL FOR "THE SHINING OF JUSTICE AFTER SO MANY YEARS." WHATEVER THE INTERPRETATION PUT ON MOLINA'S WORDS, THIS IS FIRST TIME WE CAN RECALL GOG SPOKESMAN PUBLICLY SETTING A TARGET DATE FOR A SETTLEMENT CAST IN POSITIVE TERMS.
BOSTER
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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GUATEM00265
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780021-0894
Format: TEL
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780166/aaaacdqu.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d327fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3778767
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELIZE
TAGS: PBOR, UK, BH, GT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d327fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014